AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Currently amended) A method of screening a gene library comprising at least one gene encoding an unknown secreted protein ~~in a recombinant bacterial host cell for a gene encoding a secreted protein~~, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a recombinant bacterial host cell comprising the gene library and a secretion stress inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter protein or a regulator protein;

(ii) culturing the bacterial host cell under conditions promoting expression of the gene library; and

(iii) selecting a host cell which expresses the reporter protein or regulator protein and comprises the gene encoding the unknown secreted protein.

Claim 24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter is operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a regulator protein which controls the expression of a reporter gene encoding a reporter protein.

Claim 26 (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the regulator protein is an activator or repressor of the expression of the reporter gene.

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the host cell belongs to a strain selected from the group consisting of the species *Bacillus alkalophilus*, *Bacillus agaradhaerens*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus brevis*, *Bacillus clausii*, *Bacillus circulans*, *Bacillus coagulans*, *Bacillus lautus*, *Bacillus lentus*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces murinus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Lactococcus lactis*, and *Pseudomonas putida*.

Claim 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter comprises the nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1.

Claim 31 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter consists of the nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1.

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter in its normal position is the promoter linked to a gene encoding a polypeptide which has at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:2.

Claim 34 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter is the promoter linked to a gene encoding a polypeptide which has at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:2.

Claim 35 (Canceled)

Claim 36 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter comprises the repeated octameric motif of SEQ ID NO.: 3.

Claim 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the reporter protein is 2-fold over expressed in a secretion stressed cell compared to a non secretion stressed cell.

Claim 39 (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the reporter protein is selected from the group consisting of fluorescent protein, antibiotic markers, and substrate converting enzymes.

Claim 40 (Canceled)

Claim 41 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter comprises nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1, and the host cell further

comprises a IPTG-inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acids 1 to 449 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 42 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter consists of nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1, and the host cell further comprises a IPTG-inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acids 1 to 449 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 43 (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the secreted protein is an enzyme.

Claim 44 (Currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the unknown secreted protein is an enzyme ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of proteases, cellulases (endoglucanases), beta-glucanases, hemicellulases, lipases, peroxidases, laccases, alfa-amylases, glucoamylases, cutinases, pectinases, reductases, oxidases, phenoloxidases, ligninases, pullulanases, pectate lyases, xyloglucanases, xylanases, pectin acetyl esterases, polygalacturonases, rhamnogalacturonases, pectin lyases, mannanases, pectin methylesterases, cello-biohydrolases, transglutaminases and phytases.

Claim 45 (Currently amended) A method of screening a gene library comprising at least one gene encoding an unknown secreted protein in a recombinant bacterial host cell for a gene encoding a the unknown secreted protein, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a recombinant ~~bacterial~~ *Bacillus* host cell comprising the gene library and a secretion stress inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter protein or a regulator protein;

(ii) culturing the ~~bacterial~~ *Bacillus* host cell under conditions promoting expression of the gene library; and

(iii) selecting a *Bacillus* host cell which expresses the reporter protein or regulator protein and comprises the gene encoding the unknown secreted protein; wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter ~~in its normal position is the promoter linked to a gene encoding a polypeptide which has at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:2.~~ comprises the nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1.

Claim 46 (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 45, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter is the promoter linked to a gene encoding a polypeptide which has at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:2.